

A  
 REVIEW  
 OF THE  
 STATE  
 OF THE  
 BRITISH NATION.

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Thursday, September 9. 1708.

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**W**Ho ever took my mad Man for a Conjuror? he would not have this Victory of the *Swedes* be a Victory; and now behold, when the lame Post comes in, the whole Scene is chang'd, and——

*Mad Man.* And what? Now you are running into the other Extreme I'll warrant you, and like the rest of the World are all for total Victories.

*Review.* Why, *what will you have?* Have you not seen the Particulars of the Action, sign'd by the Generals in the *Muscovite* Army, and transmitted to the *Muscovite* Ambassador at the *Hague*.

*M.* I'll believe neither one or t'other of them.

*Rev.* What then, will you allow there has been a Fight?

*M.* Yes, yes, I'll allow that; and that if you take both the Accounts by a *Medium*, you may come at something like the Truth of the Story, *viz.* That the King of *S....* I won't say with his whole Army, attack'd a Body of *Muscovites* as they were posted on some advantageous Post; that after an obstinate and well-manag'd Defence, by which the *Swedes* may know what in Time the *Muscovites* may be brought to, the *Swedes* did gain the Post, but with great Loss; and that the *Muscovites*, contrary to the Custom of their Nation, made a very orderly Retreat to their grand Army, whither the *Swedes* did not think fit to pursue them, much less to attack that Army.

*Rev.* And pray, is this the Reason that makes you so apprehensive of the *Muscovites*?

*M.* This

ally make me apprehensive of the *Muscovites*; and I believe, I may soon convince you, that I have Reason on my side, tho' in other things you may reckon me Lunatick.

Rev. I do not find you are so Lunatick in this as in other things—But if you alledge that by fighting the *Muscovites*, they will learn to fight; have not we been as much in the wrong to teach them to build Ships, and fortifie Towns, and make Ports, Arsenals, Docks, Yards, &c. from whence in time they may be able not only to command the *Baltick*, but to peep out and ask us how we do in the Ocean? Match us in our wooden Walls, and pay us for our Instruction, as the *French* have done to our Sorrow and Cost?

M. I am not so jealous of them by Sea as I am by Land, and there are a great many Reasons to be jealous of them now more than ever.

Rev. What Reasons?

M. Why I'll begin at the Beginning; They have a great and an active Prince that now governs them, who being sensible that his People were wanting, in something which render'd them inferiour to other Nations, resolv'd to take a Voyage over the *European* Part of the World, to see wherein the Deficiency of his People lay, and try if he could bring them into the proper Measures for Improvement, so as to set them on an equal Foot with other People: I need not recite his Travels to *Vienna*, thro' *Germany* to *Holland*, and at last to *England*; in these Travels, two Observations he made more especially; 1. That of Maritime Affairs; 2. That of Military Affairs.—For the first, he obtain'd here Models for Building, Artists to perform, Rules for managing, and the Manner of fighting in Navies and Ships of War; and what Improvements he has made in that Part, let his Docks and Yards at *Petersburgh*, and his beating the *Turks* at *Azoph*, testify.

For his Military Affairs, and the Manner of his Army, he saw, that War was not to be carry'd on by tumultuary Collections of Men; that it was not Multitude, but Discipline and Exercising of Troops to Arms, that obtain'd Victory;

not make Soldiers, that Crowds were not Armies, and that he might have a hundred thousand Men in the Field, and No Soldiers. But that if he would be a Match for his Enemies, he must do as they did, viz. List, cloth, arm, and pay a certain Number of Men, who should make Arms their Business, and the War their Employment; that should be bred to Discipline, taught how to bear the Fatigues of the Field, and look an Enemy in the Face: He found his Subjects forward enough in the Field, and capable of receiving the Instructions necessary; he found them a Match for other Men, when assisted with the same Advantages; he found them strong, hardy, patient, brave and subservient, Things absolutely necessary and exceedingly to be valued in a Soldier;—and that they wanted nothing but being us'd to the War. He found that even in other Countries the best Men were not valued, till they had been season'd to Service, and that the same Seasoning would bring his Subjects to be as serviceable as any other People.

With this View he has changed the whole Face of his Military Affairs; his Armies are now no more Crowds of *Boors*, and Carpenters taken out of his Woods, arm'd in a Hurry, and driven into the Field like Beasts to a Butchery; But he picks out certain Numbers of Men, chosen for Strength of Body, large Stature, and suitable Age; for he has this Advantage of all the Princes in the World, that he can pick and cull, as we call it, all over his Empire, and who he bids go, not only must go, but goes willingly.—These he has formed into Regiments, cloth'd and arm'd them after the *German* Manner, and exercising them constantly to the Practice, and handling their Arms, and maintains them in constant Pay.—For the instructing them in the Art of War, he gives Encouragement to Foreigners, both for inferiour Officers and for Generals, of which he has an incredible Number, *Germans*, *Danes*, *English*, *Scots*, *ay*, and *Swedes* too in his Service.—He has, as some relate, 12 General-Officers now in his Army of *Germans*, and 2 or 3 of *Danes*, besides Colonels, Captains and Lieutenants without Number;



...*Master, Gunner, Engineer, Fire-Meek, &c.* are all Foreigners; and he is breeding and instructing his own People gradually, giving Encouragement to them that behave well and are forward, and severely punishing those that fail or neglect.

By these Methods the *Muscovites*, instead of a tumultuary Rabble as usual, have now a regular Camp, a disciplin'd Army, and begin to be formidable; it is true, they have a terrible School-master of the King of *S...*, but they will be the better Soldiers when they are taught, and what cares the Czar if it cost him 500000 Men to get a good Army; when they are knock'd on the Head, they are paid their Arrears, and their Accounts are ballanced; and if he keeps an Army of 150000 Men out of them, beaten to the War, and bred up in their Discipline, that are harden'd to the Field, and may be call'd true *Veteranes*, he gains his End— And once bring but the *Muscovites* to this Posture in their Affairs, that they have 150000 Men of old Troops in their Pay, and that their own Gentry come to learn the Art of War; I say, he will become terrible to all *Europe*, for he may have 3 times that Number brought into the Field, and they will in time grow as good Soldiers as any in *Europe*.

This is the Ground of what I am upon; the Czar of *Muscovy*, if he goes on thus regularly to exercise and discipline his People, and keeps a great Army on Foot, as he can easily do; should the *Swede* beat him upon every Occasion, and first or last cut him of 100000 Men or two, yet shall those that remain be every Year better than they were before, and in the End he shall be able to beat all his Conquerors.

*Rev.* There is too much Truth in what you say to be contradicted—and I doubt future Ages may have Occasion to repent this War; but what would you have done?

*M.* What signifies a mad Man's saying what he would have done; Princes are too mad to take such Advice as mine is?

*Rev.* But you may give your Opinion; what would you have the King of *S...* do now, to which you would say *Amen*, I mean as to the Affair of *Muscovy*? And if you will tell me what you would have him

do there, I'll tell you what I wish he would do every where else.

*M.* Why upon that Condition, I'll tell you; I would have him, having push'd the *Muscovite* to a Necessity of Peace, accept it upon good Terms, which I believe he might now obtain, and which, as some Reports say, he offers; *Viz.* 1. That he quit *Poland*, and acknowledg'd King *Stanislaus*, that so that miserable Kingdom may be restor'd to its usual Tranquillity 2. That he quit *Livonia*, and all the Ports he has taken in the *Baltick*, such as *St. Petersburg*, a Place likely to be made one of the strongest Ports in the World, *Narva*, and the like, and give up all his Naval Preparations there to the *Swedes*. 3. That he shall disband his Army, and not keep above a certain Number of Troops in Pay on that side of *Europe*. If the *Muscovites* will do these Things, and the *Swede* should refuse to make Peace upon these Terms, then—

*Rev.* What then? —

*M.* Then I say, he will go on with the War till he repent it, or at least I believe so—Nay, tho' he should conquer *Muscovy*, and depose the Czar, he will yet repent it; for he cannot maintain his Conquest, nor keep the Country when he has got it.

*Rev.* I am of your Mind, and therefore I wish, his *S...* Majesty would patch up a Peace with the Czar of *Muscovy*, *Europe* could find him Room for Action, and better reward it; he might better employ his great Thought, and find more Glory here.

*M.* What would you have him do here, I beseech you?

*Rev.* I would have him make himself the Arbiter of *Europe*, and put an End to her bloody Contention; I would have him come down into these Parts of the World, where his Power would so easily turn the Scale, that like his great Master to the Winds in another Case, he need do no more, speaking with Deference to the Allusion, than say to all the Princes of *Europe*, Peace be still. If he would say to the French King, you must abandon *Spain*, and all its Dependencies, and be content with *France* on the Foot of the *Pyrenean Treaty*, he must do it— If he would say to the Confederacy, you must be content with the *Spanish Monarchy*.